

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 118031
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CA-01 HA-05 SCS-06 /028 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:CCHRISTIAN:RC

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:JCMONJO

L/EA:SORLINS (DRAFT)

SCA:SHOPKINS (SUBS)

HA: LMORIN (INFO COPY)

-----056205 101135Z /15

R 092111Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, SHUM, RP (LEHMAN, AUGUST MCCORMACK)
(NEPOMUCENO, ANTONIO)

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTS REPORTEDLY DEPOSITED WITH EMBASSY IN
CASE OF A. M. "TOM" LEHMAN

REF: A) STATE 239269 OF 9/25/76

B) MANILA 17142 OF 10/28/77

C) MANILA 4074 OF 4/2/75

1. THOMAS JONES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) REQUESTED MEETING WITH EA/PHL DESK OFFICER THURSDAY, MAY 4, TO DISCUSS CASE OF TOM LEHMAN. AS EMBASSY AWARE, JONES HAS LONG EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT GOP MISTREATED LEHMAN AND EMBASSY FAILED TO PROVIDE FULL EFFORTS TO SECURE HIS DECENT TREATMENT AND RELEASE (REF A). IN MEETING WITH DESK OFFICER CHRISTIAN, JONES TOUCHED ONLY BRIEFLY ON LEHMAN CASE, SAYING HE UNDERSTOOD LEHMAN WAS NOW BELIEVED TO BE TREATED REASONABLY WELL.

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2. JONES QUICKLY ESTABLISHED THAT HIS REAL PURPOSE IN REQUESTING MEETING WAS TO ASK QUOTE OFF THE RECORD UNQUOTE IF EMBASSY WOULD, THROUGH DEPARTMENT, RELEASE TO AI QUOTE PAPERS AND AN AFFIDAVIT DEPOSITED AT THE EMBASSY BY JOSE DIOKNO DURING FIRST YEAR TO YEAR AND A HA;F OF LEHMAN'S DETENTION UNQUOTE. ACCORDING TO JONES,

DIOKNO WAS LEHMAN'S ATTORNEY OF RECORD DURING THAT PERIOD

(SEPTEMBER 72 TO EARLY 74). JONES SAID PAPERS CONTAIN INFORMATION QUOTE EXCULPATORY UNQUOTE FOR ANTONIO NEPOMUCENO, WELL-KNOWN AI CASE (REF B).

3. CHRISTIAN ANSWERED THAT SHE HAD READ FILES ON LEHMAN IN PREPARATION FOR JONES' VISIT AND HAD SEEN NO REFERENCE TO ANY PAPERS DEPOSITED WITH THE EMBASSY AND THAT FIRST STEP WOULD BE FOR DEPARTMENT TO CONFIRM THEIR EXISTENCE. SHE ALSO ASKED WHY JONES HAD NOT JUST CONTACTED DIOKNO DIRECTLY TO OBTAIN A COPY, AND JONES RESPONDED THAT AI HAD NOT FELT THAT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE OF LAWYER-CLIENT PRIVILEGE. CHRISTIAN EXPLAINED THAT, ASSUMING DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND TO EXIST, AUTHORIZATION BY LEHMAN OR DIOKNO FOR THEIR RELEASE TO AI WOULD HAVE TO BE OBTAINED THROUGH PROCEDURES OF THE PRIVACY ACT. JONES RESPONDED THAT AI WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE DOCUMENTS INTACT BUT, IF THIS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE OR TOO TIME-CONSUMING, WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH EDITED RELEASE OF ONLY THOSE PORTIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTING NEPOMUCENO. CHRISTIAN REPLIED THAT PROBLEMS MIGHT PERSIST IN EVEN PARTIAL RELEASE OF TEXT BUT THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD FIRST DETERMINE IF ANY SUCH PAPERS ARE IN FACT IN EMBASSY CUSTODY AND PROCEED FROM THERE. JONES APPEARED SATISFIED WITH THIS.

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4. SCA CONFIRMS THAT THEIR FILES SHOW NO INDICATION OF ANY PAPERS DEPOSITED WITH THE EMBASSY. DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SEARCH TO DETERMINE EXISTENCE OF PAPERS.

5. NOTE: REF C OF 4/2/75 INDICATES THAT DIOKNOH WAS NOT, AND HAD NOT BEEN, LEHMAN'S ATTORNEY OF RECORD AS OF THAT DATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE118031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CCHRISTIAN:RC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780198-0318
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780577/aaaacnvty.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8406b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 STATE 239269
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2745136
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOCUMENTS REPORTEDLY DEPOSITED WITH EMBASSY IN CASE OF A. M. "TOM" LEHMAN
TAGS: CASC, SHUM, RP, (LEHMAN, AUGUST MCCORMACK)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8406b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014